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STAINES URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH
-1 OCT 52
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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

THE SENIOR SANITARY

INSPECTOR

LIBRARY

1951

Bertram Beddoe, Ltd., Market Square, Staines.

STAINES URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

of the

STAINES URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting the annual report on the health of the district covering my first year ot office, and I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their advice and co-operation. I should also like to record my appreciation of the services of the staff of the Public Health Department; particularly those of Mr. J. Mullin, Senior Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer, whose help has been invaluable.

The Public Health Department has given particular attention to the conditions under which food is sold; to raising the standard of food handling generally; and to the problems associated with housing and infectious disease control. Your staff have continued to seek the co-operation of those engaged in the handling of food and I am glad to be able to record that the good food traders welcome the effort being made by your Officers and have co-operated well. Members of the public have also taken advantage of the services of my Department by bringing to the office articles of food containing foreign matter. This indication of a keener interest in clean food by the public is welcomed and I notice the press also has shown increased interest.

Housing continues to be a difficult problem but there is no doubt there is a gradual all-round improvement in the standard of housing, but, of course, much still remains to be done. There have been an increasing number of interviews and discussions with housing applicants relative to medical aspects of their cases. Every housing case is most carefully investigated and considered by the Housing Officer. If there appear to be medical grounds in the application, these are always submitted to me for full discussion and, if necessary, personal interview with the applicant. Six families were re-housed during the year because of tuberculosis.

The decline in the number of infectious diseases notified has continued. Although there was an outbreak of measles early in the year this was mild in type and there was only one death in a child aged 11 months out of 638 cases notified. Twenty-two cases of Sonne dysentery were notified during December, the nucleus of infection being a day nursery which was closed temporarily. Two cases of anterior poliomyelitis occurred in June—these were unrelated to one another.

The actual number of infant deaths was 17. This compares favourably with the overall average of 25 infant deaths for the last 20 years and is particularly gratifying when it is remembered that the population of the district has increased by 80% (population 1932—22,070). The health of the district has continued at a satisfactory high level.

I attach a list showing the causes of death in the area during the year, and also an analysis of infant deaths.

I have the honour to be, ladies and gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

L. A. MATHESON.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area—8,250 acres, including 405 acres of water.

Population, mid 1951	39,983
Number of Inhabited Houses at 31.3.51	10,352
Rateable Value	£391,530
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,605

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ...	298	291	589
Illegitimate ...	15	14	29
	313	305	618

Birth Rate (per thousand population)	15.55
Comparability factor is 0.96, giving a corrected birth rate of	14.928
Birth Rate England and Wales	15.5

Still Births

		Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	8	6	14
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—

Still Birth Rate (per thousand population) 0.352
Still Birth Rate England and Wales 0.36

Deaths

Male	...	201
Female	...	220
		421

Death Rate (per thousand population) 10.60
Comparability factor is 1.11, giving a corrected death rate of 11.766
Death Rate England and Wales 12.5
Death Rate Staines U.D.C., 1950 ... ... 10.46
Deaths from Maternal Causes ... ... nil
Infant Deaths under one year 17
Infant Mortality Rate under one year (per thousand live births) 27.51
Infant Mortality Rate England and Wales 29.6

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA DURING 1951

Medical Officer of Health (part time) :
L. A. MATHESON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., D.C.H., M.M.S.A.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :
JOHN MULLIN, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., A.I.Hsg.

Sanitary Inspectors :
G. O. AXON, M.S.I.A.
J. K. EDSON, M.S.I.A. (resigned 31.8.51)
G. A. EVANS, M.S.I.A.
P. F. PACKHAM, M.S.I.A. (appointed 1.11.51)

Senior Clerk and Shorthand Typist :
Miss L. M. PERRYMAN

Assistant Clerk and Shorthand Typist :
Miss J. E. LOCKYER

Hospitals :
Ashford Hospital, London Road, Ashford
Staines Hospital, Kingston Road, Staines

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, etc. :

These are provided by the Middlesex County Council at the following addresses :—

The Grange, Gresham Road, Staines
The Health Centre, Stanwell Road, Ashford
Laleham Village Hall, Laleham
Stanwell Village Hall, Stanwell

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47

It was necessary to take formal action on one occasion under this Act to secure the removal to hospital of a man aged 86. Following removal of his wife to hospital this man, who had been bedridden for some years, was not receiving care and attention and was incapable of looking after himself. He refused to leave his home and application was made to the Magistrates' Court for an Order for his removal. After the necessary Notices had been served upon him, however, he entered hospital voluntarily.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 50

No burials were carried out under Section 50 of the Act.

WATER

The water supply to the area continued to be satisfactory both in quality and quantity. Nearly all the buildings in the district have a main supply from the South West Suburban Water Company; a few houses in Laleham Ward are supplied by the West Surrey Water Company and a portion of Colnbrook by the Borough of Slough Water Company.

The water supplies have no plumbo-solvent action and no action was necessary due to contamination of pipe supplies. The South West Suburban Water Company takes raw water from the River Thames; the Company's Engineer takes regular bacteriological examinations both of the raw water and of the treated water going into supply. Eighty bacteriological examinations were made, all were reported satisfactory. Four bacteriological samples were taken by the Sanitary Inspectors and these were also satisfactory.

Thirty houses occupied by 96 persons were supplied from standpipes. Fourteen of these houses are to be demolished when London Airport is extended, probably during 1953, and action under the Housing Acts is likely to be taken on the remainder when this becomes practicable.

The following is a copy of a report on a sample submitted for examination during 1951 :—

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance. Bright with very few mineral particles.

Colour	Less than 10	Turbidity	Less than 3
pH	7.8	Odour	Nil
Electric conductivity	520	Free Carbon Dioxide	4
Chlorine present as Chloride	24	Total Solids	350
Hardness : Total 270	Carbonate—195	Alkalinity as Calcium	195
		Non-carbonate—76	
Nitrate Nitrogen	3.4	Nitrite Nitrogen	Less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.000	Oxygen Absorbed	0.70
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.028	Residual Chlorine	Absent
Metals	Absent		

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
No. of Colonies developing on Agar	2 per ml.	4 per ml.	3 per ml.
	Present in	**Absent from**	**Probable No.**
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli. (Type 1)	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	— ml.	100 ml.	

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals. The water is hard in character but hardness and content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard.

These results are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE

Sewage is treated at the West Middlesex Drainage Works at Mogden.

Most of the district is sewered but it is advisable to provide sewers for the Colnbrook and Poyle areas which are semi-rural in character and drained mainly to cesspools. Main drainage has become more necessary because of the development of the trading estate at Poyle. The Council has prepared a scheme and is anxious to carry it out but under present conditions it has not yet been possible to proceed.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

A chart showing the diseases notified in their age groups is appended.

TUBERCULOSIS

Forty-five cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year, and seven people died from pulmonary tuberculosis during the year. A chart showing the age and sex distribution of the notifications and deaths is appended.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949

No action was necessary under Regulation 20 to prohibit the sale of milk suspected of causing disease.

FOOD POISONING

No outbreaks of food poisoning occurred during 1951, no cases being notified.

CAUSES OF DEATH

Disease.	Male.	Female.
Tuberculosis, respiratory	4	3
Tuberculosis, other	Nil	Nil
Syphilitic disease	3	Nil
Diphtheria	Nil	Nil
Whooping cough	Nil	Nil
Meningococcal infections	Nil	1
Acute poliomyelitis	Nil	Nil
Measles	1	Nil
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	1	Nil
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	6	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	12	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	Nil	5

Malignant neoplasm, uterus	Nil	8
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	21	29
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	Nil	Nil
Diabetes	1	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	18	27
Coronary disease, angina	30	14
Hypertension with heart disease	10	7
Other heart disease	24	44
Other circulatory disease	6	11
Influenza	3	7
Pneumonia	9	12
Bronchitis	13	6
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	2	Nil
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	5	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	Nil	Nil
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	Nil
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	Nil	Nil
Congenital malformations	1	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	18	24
Motor vehicle accidents	5	Nil
All other accidents	4	4
Suicide	1	Nil
Homicide and operation of war	Nil	Nil
	201	220

INFANT DEATHS

	Under 1 day		1—6 days		1 week		2 weeks		3 weeks		Total under 1 month		1—2 months		3—5 months		6—8 months		9—11 months		Totals	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Prematurity	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Congenital Abnormality	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
Pneumonia with measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Acute Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Atelectasis	—	1	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3
Meningococcal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Suppurative Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Acute toxaemia of unknown origin	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Cause unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	—	2	3	3	1	—	1	—	1	—	6	6	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	1	8	9

DISEASES NOTIFIED

Age Group	0-2	2-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75	75-85	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	1	3	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Whooping Cough ...	37	25	37	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	101
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	164	207	261	2	3	1	—	—	—	—	638
Dysentery ...	1	15	4	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	25
Typhoid Fever —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1

TUBERCULOSIS

Age. Periods	NOTIFICATIONS				DEATHS			
	Pulm.		Non-Pulm.		Pulm.		Non-Pulm.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—2 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2—5 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 ...	10	4	—	1	1	—	—	—
25—35 ...	7	5	—	1	—	2	—	—
35—45 ...	5	4	—	—	1	1	—	—
45—55 ...	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 ...	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65—75 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
75—85 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
85— ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	32	13	1	2	4	3	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	45		3		7		—	

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health

(Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written notices	Occupier prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by L.A.'s ...	16	8	1	—
2. Factories not included in 1, in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A. ...	202	133	6	—
3. Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises	2	—	—	—
TOTALS	220	141	7	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which prosecutions were Instituted
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	2	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temp. (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inad. Vent'n. (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffect. drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):—					
(a) insufficient	4	7	1	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	7	15	—	3	—
(c) not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	—	—	2	1	—
	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	13	23	3	4	—
	—	—	—	—	—

Outworkers :

There are 9 out-workers in the area nearly all making wearing apparel.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1951

Summary of Housing and Sanitary Inspections

Housing :

Housing Act, 1936, section 9 :—		
Inspections	12	
Reinspections	38	
Public Health Act, 1936 :—		
Inspections	985	
Reinspections	1806	
Overcrowding	46	
Council Houses	265	
		3152

General :

Massage and Chiropody Premises	12	
Cesspools	70	
Drainage Works	471	
Drain Testing	113	
Factories and Outworkers	152	
Smoke Abatement	31	
Rodent Control	223	
Inspections by Rodent Operator	4369	
Vermin	38	
Keeping of Animals and Poultry	46	
Water Supplies	58	
Infectious Diseases	90	
Food Premises	1013	
Offensive Trades	52	
Caravans	179	
Places of Public Entertainment	23	
Shops Act	89	
Hawkers	37	
Public Conveniences	23	
Schools	4	
River Pollution	11	
Refuse Deposits	53	
Hairdressers	15	
Miscellaneous	94	
		7266
		10418

Number of Notices Served :—

	Informal.	Formal.
Housing Act, 1936, section 9	5	3
Public Health Act, 1936	254	50
Shops Acts, 1950	1	—
Food & Drugs Act, 1938	31	—
	291	53

REPAIR OF DWELLING HOUSES

The high cost of building work continued to cause difficulty and delay in getting essential repairs done under sanitary notices to dwelling houses, property owners being reluctant to incur the cost, mainly because of the effect of the Rent Restrictions Acts which keep rents at pre-war levels, whereas repair costs are nearly three times that of 1939. I appreciate there are many sides to this problem and that the raising of rents by a permitted increase for repairs would affect the balance of wages and prices, but I feel some method of dealing with this should be found. In this area the majority of houses are worth repair, the percentage of old property being small, and unless houses continue to be maintained, deterioration would be progressive and this will eventually result in the property becoming unfit for habitation or in considerable expenditure being necessary to recondition it.

Complaints :

589 complaints were received during the year, these mainly concerned repairs to dwelling houses.

WORKS COMPLETED—Nuisances abated, etc.

Dampness remedied	39
Roofs repaired	76
Floors repaired	19
Walls repaired	74
Ceilings repaired	34
Windows repaired or renewed	70
General internal repairs	16
General external repairs	23
Cesspools cleansed (Statutory Notice)	8
Rainwater gutters and pipes	62
Chimneys repaired	4
Yard paving repaired or renewed	2

Fire grates repaired or renewed	15
Verminous premises cleansed	12
Pail closets abolished	21
Domestic chimneys—nuisance abated	6
Drains—new, repaired, cleared, etc.	27
W.C.'s and fittings repaired or renewed... ...	29
New sinks	2
Waste pipes, new or repaired	11
Cesspools abolished	35
Houses provided with proper water supply ...	12
Miscellaneous	14
	611

Shops Act, 1950 :

Means of heating provided	1
Sanitary accommodation provided	2
Sanitary accommodation cleansed or improved ...	2
Seats provided	1
Miscellaneous	1

HOUSING STATISTICS

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	997
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	2841
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	—
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	—
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	7
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	344

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	177

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Acts, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	3
(b) By local authorities in default of owners	1

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Act :—

(1) Number of dweling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	50
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	68
(b) By local authority in default of owners	—

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	7
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	2

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	1
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

OVERCROWDING

Sixteen statutorily overcrowded families were rehoused by the Council and there are 48 families totaling 263 persons who are statutorily overcrowded.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Public Health Act, 1936 :—

One summons was issued in connection with an abatement notice which had not been complied with, and an Order was made for the work to be carried out, to take effect within twenty-eight days.

Housing Act, 1936.

Houses let in Lodgings Byelaws :

A summons under these Byelaws was withdrawn after the owner had taken successful action in the County Court for possession of the house.

Food and Drugs Act, 1936 :

(1) A butcher was fined £50 and £5 5s. costs on a charge of having for sale on Christmas Eve, 1951, 13 turkeys, 6 ducks, 7 geese, 7 chickens and 1 rabbit, which were decomposed and unfit for consumption.

(2) A firm of confectioners and bakers was fined £5 and £5 5s. costs for selling a bun containing the tip of a human finger. The firm pleaded guilty and stated that this had occurred due to their strict instructions not being fully carried out following an accident to an employee.

(3) A local resident complained to the Public Health Department that a cake which she had bought contained a $1\frac{1}{4}$in. nail. A summons was issued against the firm supplying the cake but this was dismissed by the Court on the grounds that there was a doubt as to how the nail got into the cake.

Middlesex County Council Acts, 1944 and 1950 :

Summonses were taken out against two caravan dwellers and each was fined £2 for occupying caravans without the consent of the Council.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food Premises :

	No. of Inspections
Slaughter-houses	58
Butchers' Shops	74
Bakehouses	38
Ice Cream Premises	130
Restaurants and Cafes	178
Other Food Premises	535
	1013

	Butchers	Kitchens	Other food premises
Premises cleansed ...	2	7	6
Ventilation provided ...	—	1	1
Hot water supply provided	2	1	4
Floors and walls cleansed...	3	2	8
Lighting improved ...	—	—	2
Miscellaneous ...	—	2	4

The following foods, examined by your Inspectors in the various types of food premises, were surrendered as unfit for human consumption :—

2,178 canned foods
2 hams
212 lbs. ham
24 lbs. bacon
23 lbs. luncheon meat
12 lbs. jellied veal
200 lbs. pigs' feet
2 pigs' lungs
20 lbs. tripe
994 lbs. beef
64 lbs. corned beef
3 lbs. beef suet
10 lbs. cow heel
1 cow carcase (moribund)
5 stone chats
88 lbs. rabbits
25 turkeys
9 chickens
7 geese
6 ducks
24 lbs. prawns
400 lbs. fish
63 lbs. herring roes
8 lbs. cheese
6 lbs. butter
8 lbs. chocolate biscuits
80 lbs. coconut macaroon biscuits
8 pkts. cake mixture
28 lbs. sultanas
94 lbs. prunes
965 lbs. pears
25 bottles mayonnaise

Food Byelaws :

Byelaws under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, have been in force since July, 1950, and have helped to raise the standard of food handling. Fifteen infringements of the Byelaws were brought to the notice of traders and were remedied without the necessity for legal action. The Council's Inspectors have continued the campaign to secure clean food and have, by advice, persuasion and enforcement proceedings where necessary, done much to secure an improvement.

Clean Food Campaign :

Publicity and education have continued and film shows on food hygiene were given by the Central Office of Information. The films were shown at three times during the day, but I regret to say they were poorly attended although all food traders had been notified. Talks were given to various clubs and associations on food hygiene and there is no doubt the public are more interested.

Foreign matter in food is still too often found; such items as cigarette ends, mouse droppings, skin, wire nails, etc., have all been found in bread and confectionery, undoubtedly due to carelessness on the part of food handlers. Attention was given to the washing of glasses in licensed premises. This is often perfunctory at busy periods and the quick rinsing of a glass in cold water cannot be accepted as satisfactory.

In order to bring home to caterers the need for better crockery washing, bacteriological swabs of crockery are taken and the caterers informed of the result, and there is still plenty of room for improvement in this direction. Advice has been given to bakers and confectioners on the use of artificial cream and bacteriological examinations of artificial cream have been made.

Milk and Dairies Regulations :

During the year the area was included in an area specified as one in which only heat treated or designated milk could be sold. Nearly all the milk sold in this area was already heat treated. Five samples of pasteurised milk were submitted for the methylene blue and phosphate tests ; all were satisfactory. Two samples of raw milk taken from a retailer were reported positive for tubercle organisms. This was reported to the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture who was successful in tracing an affected cow which was slaughtered.

Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations :

Manufacture and sale of ice-cream continued to receive attention. Most of the ice-cream sold in the district is made by large firms but there are still 5 retailers making their own ice-cream. Ninety-nine premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream, 18 new dealers being registered during the year.

Eight-eight samples of ice-cream were submitted to the Area Public Health Laboratory at Epsom for examination by the Methylene Blue Test, and the table shows that the quality continued to improve :

	Nos. of samples.	% placed in Grades 1 & 2	% placed in Grades 3 & 4
1947 ...	51	56.9	43.1
1948 ...	120	76.7	23.3
1949 ...	150	80.7	19.3
1950 ...	166	83.5	16.5
1951 ...	88	87.5	12.5

It will be seen that in 1947 56.9% samples were placed in Grades 1 or 2, whereas by 1951 this had risen to 87.5%.

130 visits were made to premises where ice-cream is either made or sold, and your inspectors checked storage temperatures and advised retailers on clean methods of serving and handling ice-cream. Inspections were made of vendors selling ice-cream from tricycles, etc. and there is lack of cleanliness in serving by such vendors, especially where loose ice-cream is sold, and these traders are advised to sell pre-packed ice-cream.

The grading is according to the standard recommended by the Ministry of Health the methylene blue test being an indication of the bacteriological cleanliness. Ice-cream manufactured and served under hygienic conditions should fall in Grades 1 or 2 and good makers have no difficulty in maintaining this standard.

Inspection of Meat :

There are no slaughter-houses in operation in the area since killing was centralised by the Ministry of Food in 1940, but 2 slaughter-houses are used occasionally for the killing of self suppliers' pigs under Ministry of Food permits. Fifty-eight pigs killed under permits were inspected, no part of the carcases or organs was unfit for food. 994 lbs. of fresh meat was condemned in butchers' shops mainly due to bone taint.

Meat Transport :

The vehicles used for transport of meat from Ministry of Food Slaughter-houses to the butchers' shops are not satisfactory. They are timber lined and although painted white inside, the paint-work soon becomes blood-stained and marked resulting in a very bad appearance. If economy does not permit the use of vans designed for hanging fresh meat on rails, then the vans should be lined with sheet metal on the sides and tail board thus providing an easily cleaned impervious surface. From the point of appearance alone such a lining would be well worth the cost.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Council employs one Rodent Operator who is provided with an 8-h.p. van to enable him to cover the district (over 8,000 acres). Treatment is carried out free at private houses and, as in former years, the majority of the infestations dealt with are due to domestic poultry keeping or pig keeping. It would not be necessary to spend time on treating infestations of this type if the simple precautions necessary to keep poultry houses and pig styes free from rats were taken.

Test baiting of the Council's sewers again showed they were almost free from rat infestation.

The following is a summary of inspections, etc., carried out by the Operator.

No. of properties inspected	568
No. of premises found to be infested by rats ...	443
No. of dwelling houses treated	368
No. of business premises treated	72
Total number of visits	4,369